

WHITE HOUSE
Conference on Aging

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Older American Month Conference Workshop “Design For Living”

Date of Event: Friday May 13th 2005

Location of Event: Long Island Marriot, Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, NY
(Include city and state)

Number of Persons attending: 150-200

Sponsoring Organization(s): Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs

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Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first.

Please ensure that you organization’s name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.

Priority Issue # 1: (describe specific issue)

The priority issue of the workshop was to provide community dwelling senior citizens and aging network professionals with an overview of assistive technologies and assistive home- environments.

The goal was to teach them how to select appropriate solutions and individualize the living spaces utilizing the products and research information from the burgeoning gero-technology field.

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

The primary barrier that surfaced was the perceived cost of purchasing and installing assistive technologies, after market, into a community home. Also concerns about finding a company to install and repair/maintain them.

The secondary barrier presented as *knowing* about the wide range of available technologies and the skill to evaluate the efficacy of a device for an individual user.

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

Education/outreach focused to the aging network providers *and* the community at large is needed to replace perception with reality.

Direct marketing to community residents could include installation fees and follow-up servicing contracts similar to oil companies.

Prime time TV and Cable home improvement shows can carry the message to millions of consumers showcasing the new products and technologies as they become available.

Books, articles and workshops can teach both the public and professional consumer needed assessment skills.